

Enquiries Paul Butcher  
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Your reference  
Our reference CR53091



25 January 2012

Rivermouth Action Group Inc  
P.O. Box 268  
MORNINGSIDE QLD 4170  
Attention: Mr Barry Wilson

Department of  
**Environment and Resource  
Management**

**Re: Correspondence regarding Port West drainage channel incident**

I refer to your email of 5 January 2012 in which you requested information about an alleged incident involving a breach of the bund wall on land at Port West and the possible release of sand into the adjacent drainage channel. The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) has investigated the matter and can provide the following information.

According to information supplied by Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL), the photo images you supplied showing an excavator working near the drainage channel have been dated to around April/ May 2009 when preloading sand washed out of the development area. This occurred in a number of places along the length of the development area. However, only at one of these places did the sand cross the vehicular track and enter the drainage channel. The excavator in the photos was being used by the previous operator, Port of Brisbane Corporation (PBC), to expedite the removal of material from the channel by receiving sand removed by hand from the channel and transporting it back to the development area. DERM understands that PBC did not report this incident at the time.

During a recent site inspection, DERM officers found another area of likely sand ingress into the drainage channel. PBPL had found this sand ingress in December 2011 after receiving the same photos from you. PBPL notified the fisheries section of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). PBPL believes that this sand ingress occurred approximately 18 months ago and was not reported by PBC at the time. PBPL have since sent a submission to DEEDI outlining various remediation options for this area of the channel. DEEDI will assess what action, if any, is required of PBPL as the new site operator/occupier. DERM has requested to be informed of the outcome and intend to follow up with PBPL on any required action.

If you wish to discuss these matters further please contact Paul Butcher on telephone (07) 3238 3819.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Vasel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Vasel

**Manager – Brisbane City South  
Environmental Services  
Department of Environment and Resource Management**